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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04942 0515Ø0Z

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ACTION EA 10

INFO SP Ø2,SS 35,GPM Ø3,SC Ø1,NSC 10,RSC Ø1,SAL Ø1,SAH Ø3,AID 30,L Ø3,
H 22,INR Ø7,P Ø4,NSCE ØØ,CIAE ØØ,SSO ØØ,DODE ØØ,USIE ØØ,NSAE ØØ,
ICO ØØ,PER Ø1,/122 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szuba DATE 12/23/81
RDC ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TO ALM. REASON(S)
EXEMPTION OF ENTIRE TELEGRAM ☐
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Z R 3Ø822ØZ SEP 67 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6247
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0122
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 697
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2430

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4942

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HA THUC KY DESCRIBED CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN BITTER TERMS AS "FLAGRANT AND STUPID RIGGING". HE WAS BRISTLING WITH ACCUSATIONS OF ALL KINDS OF FRAUD BUT AT SAME TIME RESIGNED TO BELIEF THAT PROTEST PROBABLY FUTILE.

2. KY CHARGED DELIBERATE DECISION OF GVN RESPONSIBLE FOR TRUONG DINH DZU'S SECOND PLACE FINISH, WHICH ALLEGEDLY EMBARRASSED DZU HIMSELF AND WHICH "NO ONE BELIEVES"; DZU ALLEGEDLY TOLD KY SEPT 5 THAT HE HAD EXPECTED TO FINISH NO HIGHER THAN FIFTH.

(1)

PAGE TWO SAIGON 4942 C O N F I D E N T I A L
GVN SUPPOSEDLY CONCENTRATED ITS EFFORTS AGAINST HUONG, SUU AND KY HIMSELF AND ESTABLISHED ITS OWN WINNING PERCENTAGE IN ADVANCE.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04942 05 1500Z

ISSUING CORRESPONDING INSTRUCTIONS TO CORPS COMMANDERS.

3. HE RECOUNTED NUMEROUS INSTANCES REPORTED BY HIS PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND POLL WATCHERS IN WHICH HIS BALLOTS WERE NOT DELIVERED TO POLLING PLACES OR (ALONG WITH SUU'S) WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED TO VOTERS. (FELLOW CANDIDATE PHAM HUY CO ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED ONLY 24 SENATE BALLOTS INSTEAD OF REQUISIT 48.) ALSO COMPLAINED THAT POLICE AND POLLING STATION OFICIALS IGNORED PROTESTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVILIAN CANDIDATES. OTHER METHODS ALLEGEDLY USED BY GVN INCLUDED PRE-ELECTION PRESSURE ON DAI VIET OFFICIALS, MANIPULATION OF RESULTS THROUGH UNNECESSARY MOVEMENT OF BALLOTS BOXES, "SHORT-PENCILLING", ETC.

4. KY DISCOUNTED OTHER FACTORS THAT MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCED OUT COME (E.G., BUDDHIST SUPPORT FOR SUU IN I CORPS) IN FAVOR OF THIS THEORY OF TOTAL RIGGING BY GVN. HE POINTED TO HIS "INCREDIBLY LOW"VOTE TOTALS IN HUE (WHERE NGUYEN CAO KY "ADMITTED PUBLICLY THAT HA THUC KY IS KING"), DANANG, BINH DINH, PHU YEN AND OTHER PLACES WHERE HE CLAIMED CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATIONAL AND POPULAR SUPPORT AS EVIDENCE.

PAGE THREE RUMJIR 4942 C O N F I D E N T I A L

5. KY SAID HE THOUGH ANY FORM OF PROTEST PROBABLY USELESS BUT INDICATED HE HAD NOT DECIDED HIS COURSE OF ACTION. HE DID NOT APPEAR INCLINED TO IMITATE DZU'S PRESS CONFERENCE APPROACH AND SAID HE HAD SO FAR MADE NO PLANS FOR JOINT ACTION WITH OTHER LOSERS; IN FACT, HAD SEEN NO FELLOW CANDIDATES OTHER THAN DZU SINCE SUNDAY.

6. KY SAID HE ANDOTHERS, PARTICULARLY HUONG, HAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED WITHDRAWING AT SEVERALPOINTS DURING CAMPAIGN. HE HAD TOLD HUONG THAT IF THEY WITHDREW THEY WOULD BETRAY TRUST OF THEIR FOLLOWERS AND FOREGO OPPORTUNITYTO DEMONSTATE "DICTATORIAL NATURE" OF GVN. HE, HUONG AND SUU NOW AT LEAST SHARE CONSOLATION OF MORAL VICTORY AND HENCEFORTH SHOULD HAVE "TRUE SUPPORT OF PEOPLE" AGAINST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP. NONE OF THE THREE WILL ACCEPT ANY POST IN THIEU'S GOVERNMENT BECAUSE TO DO WOULD BE TO "ACCEPT VERDICT" OF-RIGGED ELECTION. PHAN QUANG DAN, ON

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 04942 05150Z

OTHER HAND, HAS ACCEPTED RESULT BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE MINISTER OF REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT.

7. FINALLY, KY SAW NO REALISTIC HOPE OF FORMING OPPOSITION WITHIN FUTURE LEGISLATURE: SENATE IS BEING PACKEDWITH GVN SUPPORTERS AND LOWER HOUSE PRESUMABLY WILL BE TOO.

PAGE FOUR RUMJIR 4942 C O N F I D E N T I A L

8. COMMENT: KY'S ANTI-GVN RHETORIC IS CUSTOMARY IN TONE AND UNDOUBTEDLY OVERSTATED FOR OUR BENEFIT. LIKE MANY OTHERS, HE FINDS DZU'S SHOWING INEXPLICABLE AND PARTICULARLY GALLING. HE IS NOT READY TO REVEAL OR (MORE LIKELY) HAS NOT FINALLY DETERMINED HIS NEXT MOVES. WE DOUBT THAT KY WILL BE ABLE TO DOCUMENT MANY OF HIS ALLEGATIONS, AND HIS PRESENT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHETHER AND HOW TO PROTEST PROBABLY REFLECTS THIS INABILITY. HAVING CAMPAIGNED AND LOST, HE MAY REVERT TO MORE USUAL PATTERN OF STRONG WORDS BUT LITTLE OVERT ACTIVITY.

BUNKER